

Remarks

Claims 1-20 are currently pending in this Application. Claims 1-4 were rejected and Claims 5-20 were objected to.

Please cancel Claims 1- 4 without prejudice or disclaimer.

In view of the amendments and following remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration by the Examiner, and advancement of the application to allowance.

Double Patenting

The Examiner provisionally rejected Claim 1 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 1 of co-pending Application no. 10/714,986. Applicants have cancelled Claim 1 so this rejection is now moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Cheolas et al. (US 2004/0094859 A1). The Examiner also rejected Claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Cheolas et al. (WO 00/29459). Further, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Credali et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,382,626). Applicants have cancelled Claims 1- 4 so these rejections are now moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that these rejections be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner objected to Claims 5-20 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim and indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 5-8, 13-15, and 18-20 have been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants also respectfully submit that Claims 9-12 and 16-17 all ultimately depend on a claim (Claim 8, 14, or 15) that has been rewritten in independent form

including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 9-12 and 16-17 need not be rewritten in independent form (including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims) to be allowable, as the amended claim from which they depend are allowable (because they have been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims). Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is now in condition for allowance, and respectfully request issuance of a Notice of Allowance directed towards Claims 5-20.

If a telephone conference would expedite the processing of this application, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at (281) 419-4803.

No fee is believed to be due in connection with the filing of this document. However, should any fee be due, the Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to deduct said fee from Huntsman Corporation Deposit Account No. 08-3442.

Please date stamp and return the enclosed postcard to acknowledge receipt of this material.

Respectfully submitted,



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